

TOPIC Soviet and Polish Troops in Deutsch Lissa and Breslau

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT Prior to October 1951

PREPARED 25 March 1952

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. During the second half of August 1951, a military installation consisting of four buildings was located on the south side of ul. Trzmielowicka, formerly Meidauerstrasse, and on the east side of ul. Miodowa, southwest of the railroad station in Deutsch Lissa (P 52/C 32) near Breslau. The buildings, which had no doors and window panes, were vacant but were guarded by a Polish sentry. Scrap, including wrecked motor vehicles, was lying in the yard. A truck with Polish soldiers was seen moving from the installation to the barracks where Polish tank troops were stationed on the west side of ul. Obornicka in the suburb of Rosenthal.
2. From 1945 to July 1950, Soviet troops were quartered in the former Flak Kaserne west of Oltaschin (P 52/C 41) suburb. An east-west board fence divided the installation. The Soviet unit in the northern section was referred to as infantry battalion and that in the southern section, which moved in in 1948, as technical battalion. (1)
3. The unit in the northern section of the installation [redacted] at the time immediately after the seizure of Breslau by the Russians. [redacted] The pass was valid until 1 September 1945 and signed by Captain Lakyushin (fnu), chief of staff. About September 1945, [redacted] and signed Lieutenant Colonel Sryachev (fnu), commanding officer. The troops in the northern section were seen [redacted] from about 1946 until May 1950. (2) [redacted] the unit the northern section had not been transferred between 1945 and May 1950 when he was employed there. Colonel Klinkov (fnu) was commanding officer of the motorized infantry battalion from 1946 until the fall of 1949 when, according to rumors, he was shot to death by Polish partisans. He was succeeded by a major. Beginning 1948, [redacted] the troops of the battalion, which

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numbered 800 to 1,000 men, wore red epaulets and red-bordered epaulets that matched the color of the uniform. The battalion was equipped with more than 100 motor vehicles, most of which were ZIS trucks and some Studebaker trucks. American jeeps were almost the only passenger vehicles used until 1 May 1950. The troops complained that the vehicles were in very poor mechanical condition. Until May 1950, the troops were equipped only with small arms. They were between 19 and about 28 years of age and were frequently rotated. They had no town leave and marched out in formation to attend shows and other performances. (1)

4. The troops were engaged in driving practice outside the billeting area and infantry drill and arms training on the inside. The unit was sometimes seen leaving the installation by truck. In the spring and fall, the unit would leave for large scale exercises. In the fall of 1949, the troops were absent from the post for about six weeks. [redacted] they were practicing near Schweidnitz (P 51/H 18). [redacted] seen leaving the installation stated that they were going to the headquarters in Liegnitz (O 52/B 82). Until May 1950, the troops referred to the superior office as division headquarters. (1) [redacted] the changes in the occupation of the Flak Kaserne occurred prior to October 1951.

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5. [redacted] the so-called technical battalion, which moved into the southern section of the Flak Kaserne in 1948, had been stationed in Cosel (P 51/X 98) earlier. Upon arrival, the troops established a supply point for motor vehicle spare parts at the southern section; most of the spare parts had been brought along by the unit. The stocks were filled by spare parts shipped in from the Soviet Zone of Germany and the Polish-occupied areas of Germany. The spare parts included new motors, motor parts, pistons, chassis parts and fenders. No tank parts or weapons were noticed in that section of the installation. Among the troops of the technical battalion were some wearing an army uniform with light blue epaulets. The troops were between 21 and 30 years of age. Most of the officers were older than those of the troops in the northern section of the installation. The unit was also subordinate to a division headquarters in Liegnitz. (1)
6. Prior to May 1950, a compound for Polish troops was located just north of the former Flak Kaserne. The compound, which consisted of solid brick buildings and low wooden buildings, was damaged during the war and partly rebuilt by the beginning of 1950. As motor vehicle spare parts were repeatedly unloaded at the compound and as many trucks were parked there, [redacted] the installation was a Polish motor pool with a spare parts supply point. (3)

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7. Prior to September 1950, the former Flak Kaserne quartered about 600 troops of a motorized infantry unit which was referred to as "the battalion". The unit moved into the installation in 1945 or 1946. [redacted] components of the same unit were stationed in Erieg (P 51/H 89), Ohlau (P 51/C 60), Oppeln (P 51/J 17) Liegnitz and Schweidnitz. The troops were equipped with trucks and armed with light machine guns. They wore red-bordered epaulets; the officers wore red bands around their caps with the Soviet star. (1) The unit was engaged in maintenance duty at the garages. The unit also engaged in drill daily and field training. Prior to September 1950, quarters for Polish troops were located along the road passing the installation to the north. (3) The Soviet unit in the Flak Kaserne furnished the sentries for the Soviet ammunition dump established in a large stable of the former estate in the village of Wessig (P 52/C 41). Infantry ammunition and shells for heavy artillery pieces were stockpiled there to the ceiling. [redacted] infantry ammunition several times for the unit in the Flak Kaserne.

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8. Prior to the fall of 1950, a Soviet supply depot was established in a former German compound in Opperau, a suburb of Breslau. (4) About four field emplacements with Soviet AA guns were last seen near the main road through Neukirch (P 52/C 41) in the summer of 1950. The emplacements were first seen in 1948. Long barreled AA guns were emplaced there in the summer of 1950. About 50 Soviet soldiers were quartered in several dwelling houses along the main road.
9. Prior to the summer of 1950, the former Grenadier Kaserne on the east side of Dorpaterstrasse was occupied by Polish motorized troops who were equipped with numerous three-axle trucks. The troops wore the usual brown uniform. A Polish Army hospital was also housed in the installation. Until the summer of 1950, the former Hindenburg Kaserne on the west side of Dorpaterstrasse seemed to be heavily occupied by Soviet motorized troops including an AT artillery unit. The unit was equipped with trucks mounting a light machine gun on a bipod. Six AT guns with very long barrels were also seen. The former Woyrsch Kaserne, adjoining the Hindenburg Kaserne to the west, was occupied by a Polish motorized unit of young regular soldiers and a military school. The troops of the motorized unit wore brown uniforms and the students special uniforms consisting of dark-blue or black cloth trousers with broad red stripes at the outside seams, brown blouses with silver-bordered epaulets and silver braid around the sleeves, and brown visor caps with red bands. The school was last observed in July 1950. No heavy weapons were noticed with the motorized unit. (4)
10. The large barracks installation on the west side of Obernigkerstrasse in Breslau-Rosenthal quartered a Polish tank unit and a Polish KDW (Corps of Internal Security) unit which, [redacted] was a regiment. 25X1 [redacted] 12 tanks and 6 armored vehicles with the tank unit but indicated that some of the armored vehicles might have belonged to the KDW units. The six light armored vehicles had wheels in front and a system of tracks and suspensions in the rear. Each mounted on a special support either a machine gun or a 20-mm AA gun. The tanks observed ran on large bogie wheels but had no track supporting rollers. Furthermore, there was one small tank with revolving turret mounting a gun with a muzzle brake. (4)
11. In the summer of 1950, the central Soviet motor vehicle repair shop south of Polanowitz (P 52/C 42) on the east side of the highway to Breslau was operated by Polish laborers and German civilians. The repair shop overhauled Soviet military vehicles. Prior to the summer of 1950, an unidentified Soviet supply installation was located on the premises of the former ceramics factory in Deutsch Lissa. The installation was located west of the Breslau-Liegnitz railroad line, a short distance from the point where the railroad line intersected the Breslau-Liegnitz highway. The installation was guarded by Soviet military personnel still in 1950. A Polish ration supply depot was located in the former barracks area of Buergerwerder prior to the summer of 1950. The installation was located in the former German Army ration supply depot on the south side of Werderstrasse just west of the Koenigsbruecke. The former German barracks installation on the north side of Werderstrasse, opposite the depot, was destroyed during the war and was not rebuilt by the summer of 1950. Polish military installations were observed in the northern section of the spacious barracks area of Buergerwerder. However, no military motor vehicles or weapons were noticed there. Groups of up to 50 Polish soldiers were occasionally seen marching out of the billeting area. Polish officers were seen frequently assembling in the section of the billeting area which faced the west bank of the Norder-Oder River just north of the Wilhelmbruecke. The military installation had the appearance of a training center. (5)

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[] Comments.

- (1) In August 1951, [] the former Flak Kaserne a rocket launcher unit and motor vehicle repair shops which probably belong to the technical battalion mentioned in the present report. The motorized infantry battalion may be an MGB unit. This hypothesis is supported by the statement that the battalion is equipped with only small arms and light machine guns, that it was practicing near Schweidnitz, and by the rumor that the commanding officer was killed by partisans. Units carried in Silesia include the 20th Tank Div, the headquarters of which was in Oppeln during the time covered by the report; and the Hq Northern Group of Forces in Liegnitz. It is believed that the two units [] are subordinate directly to the Headquarters Northern Group of Forces in Liegnitz. 25X1

- (2) []
Lieutenant Colonel Sryachev (inn) was reported to have been the commanding officer of a motor transport unit of the Northern Group of Forces in December 1948.

- (3) The information confirms the Polish motor transport unit mentioned in a previous report.
- (4) The report confirms a Soviet supply installation in Opperau; a Polish motorized unit in the former Grenadier Kaserne, Soviet motorized units in the former Tauentzien Kaserne which is the southeastern section of the Hindenburg Kaserne, a Polish officer school in the former Woyrsch Kaserne, a Polish tank regiment and a KBW regiment in the two southernmost barracks installations in Breslau-Rosenthal.
- (5) The information generally agrees with the reference report. A Polish veterinary hospital and the Militia city headquarters were allegedly housed in the heavily damaged barracks installations in Buergerwerder in the fall of 1951. [] 25X1

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